

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 10003493-1
Serial No.: 09/995,765**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8, 21, 22, and 24 are pending. In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-8, 21, 22, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by admitted prior art. These rejections are respectfully traversed. The Office Action indicated claims 4 and 23 include allowable subject matter.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 21, 22, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by admitted prior art (APA). When making a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102, a necessary condition is that the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. (see MPEP, §706.02). If any claimed element is missing from the applied reference, then the claim is distinguishable over the reference.

By this amendment, claim 23, which was objected to as including allowable subject matter, is combined with independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 21, 22, and 24 are believed to be allowable.

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As all of the outstanding rejections have been traversed and all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, the Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowability. If the undersigned attorney can assist in any matters regarding examination of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Gibson

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